impressed upon the textile industry the need to modernise in order to become more competitive in the changing global scenario.

A proposal is under formulation to facilitate modernisation, through technological upgradation, of the textile industry. The intended objective is to improve production and productivity of the Indian textile industry to make it more competitive, including in the export market. Details of a Technology Upgradation Fund for textiles and jute industries are being worked out in this regard.

Investment by Multinational Companies

5388. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "MNC investment figures as security threat" appearing in 'The Observer of Business and Politics', New Delhi, dated February 7, 1997

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to avoid serious security threat?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Excavation Engineers

5389. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether 80% coal in the country is being produced by open coast mines with the help of heavy earth moving equipments and involving sophisticated technology;

(b) whether coal India Limited pays little interest towards the career growth of Engineers particularly those of excavation discipline who are the hub in the production of coal;

(c) whether Excavation engineers are subjugated to work under Executives of mining discipline who are not doing the actual work of repair/maintenance of heavy earth moving equipments resulting into loss of production; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Nearly 78% of total coal production in the mines of Coal India Ltd. comes from opencast mines.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) As per the relevant provision of the Mines Act, 1952 and Coal Mines Regulations, 1957 a mine is to be under the supervision, direction, management and control of a Manager who has the requisite qualification as per the statute. Other executives who are experts in various fields such as Finance, Personnel and Excavation Engineers who run and maintain heavy earth moving machinery are posted in the mines as per requirement and constitute a team which is engaged in various production related work under the Mine Manager.

Joint Venture to Build Hospitals

5390. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:

SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Singapore health care company and an Indian industrial group have tentatively agreed to set up several hospitals offering a wide range of facilities in India and Nepal; and

(b) if so, details thereof alongwith the locations of the hospitals to be constructed, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Singapore health care company M/s. Glenoaagles Development Pvt. Ltd., Singapore and an Indian industrial group have formed a joint venture company M/s. Duncan Goenka Hospitals Ltd. with foreign equity participation of 50% amounting to Rs. 1570.00 lakhs for setting up a 270 Bed Hospital at Calcutta in the State of West Bengal. The application was considered by FIPB and approval was issued in the month of July, 1996.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission

5391. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects from the individual entrepreneurs have been received by the different State offices of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission after the adoption of the project approach by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC);

(b) the number of projects cleared by the different industry directorates in the Central office of the KVIC;

(c) the number of projects cleared by the different industry directorates and the Banking Division of the KVIC and sanctioned by standing Finance Committee; and

(d) the number of entrepreneurs have received actual payment from the KVIC against the projects submitted by them?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) After adoption of project approach, as per the information received from KVIC offices of the States and Union Territories, a total of 719 projects from individual entrepreneurs have been received so far.

(b) 523 projects pertaining to individual entrepreneurs have been received by various industry directorates